

INFORMATION

SECRET/NODIS

October 30, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger
SUBJECT: Bunker Discussion with Thieu on
Thieu's November 1 Speech

Ambassador Bunker reports in the attached cable that he talked with President Thieu today about his November 1 speech and the need to harmonize anything he might say about war and peace issues with what you will be saying on November 3. He told Thieu that he expected to have an outline of the November 3 speech and would be in touch with Thieu as soon as he received it.

Thieu said he did not intend to dwell on war and peace and the negotiations in his November 1 speech. He has in mind saving such matters for a message to the people of South Vietnam on December 31.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

State Dept. review
completed

MORI C05076407

Attachment

HAK:TL:lds:10/30/69

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BACK CHANNEL (VIA CAS)

SECRET/NODIS

October 30, 1969

TO: Ambassador Bunker

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

With reference your 21820 to SecState, believe it would be worthwhile for you to reiterate to Thieu the President's desire that Thieu make some reference in his November 1 speech to his October 6 offer to discuss ceasefire with the other side. Again, let me emphasize that this is not repeat not to be interpreted as an indication that the President intends to make any new initiative on this subject in his November 3 speech. It is solely designed to get Thieu more credit here in the U.S.

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HAK:

Should we go back to Bunker through the back channel asking again that a reference to Thieu's October 6 statement on ceasefire be included in his November 1 speech? It is unclear from Bunker's cable whether he, in fact, broached the matter with Thieu. The President can, of course, refer to the October 6 statement in his speech whether or not Thieu reaffirms it.

A draft message to Bunker is attached at Tab I should you wish to send one. If you do wish to send the message to Bunker, we will add the following sentence to your memorandum to the President:

"Since receiving this message, I have reiterated to Bunker your desire that Thieu make some reference in his November 1 speech to his October 6 statement of willingness to discuss a ceasefire with the other side."

Send message _____

As amended _____

Don't send _____

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Al Haig